

Serial No. 10/106,401

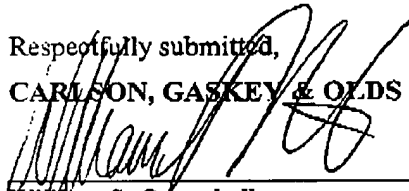
REMARKS

Claims 1-17 and 21-24 are presently pending in the application. Applicant affirms the election of Group I and the withdraw of claims 18-20.

Claims 1-17 were rejected under §103 based upon a combination including Reiter and Johnston. The Examiner has interpreted the bearing cage of claims 1 and 8 as the retainer now claimed in new claims 22 and 24. Claims 1 and 8 have also been amended to better clarify the structural relationship of the present invention bearing cage to the axle housing and bearing assembly. Accordingly, the pending claims are allowable over the combination of Reiter and Johnston.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant submits that the pending claims in the application are allowable. Applicant respectfully solicits allowance of these claims. If any fees or extensions of time are required, please charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1482.

Respectfully submitted,
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Version with markings to show changes made

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 and 8 as follows:

1. (Amended) A drivetrain assembly comprising:

a housing having an aperture through a portion of said housing;

a bearing cage disposed in said aperture ~~in engagement with said housing, said cage~~
[and] secured to said portion ~~against relative rotation thereto[;],~~ and said cage including an opening therethrough;

a driven shaft including a shaft portion disposed in said opening; and

a bearing assembly supporting said shaft portion in said cage, said bearing assembly including an outer race ~~spaced from said housing~~ with at least one protrusion extending therefrom received in said cage preventing rotation of said outer race relative to said cage.

8. (Amended) A drivetrain assembly comprising:

a housing having an aperture through a portion of said housing;

a bearing cage disposed in said aperture ~~in engagement with said housing, said cage~~
[and] secured to said portion ~~against relative rotation thereto,~~ and said cage including an opening therethrough;

a driven shaft including a shaft portion disposed in said opening; and

a bearing assembly supporting said shaft portion in said cage, wherein said cage is constructed from a polymer material.